

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 IO-12 EB-11 EA-11 NEA-10 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /139 W
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R 061534 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9872

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1201

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SW UR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY COMMENT ON KOSYGIN VISIT TO SWEDEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 1198

BEGIN SUMMARY: KOSYGIN'S 1973 VISIT TO SWEDEN, MILD AND UNEVENTFUL COMPARED TO SPECTACULAR KHRUSHCHEV INCURSION IN 1964 AND CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS- SHADOWED KOSYGIN VISIT IN 1968, WAS A MODEST SUCCESS BY SOVIET AND SWEDISH STANDARDS. INFORMANTS ON BOTH SIDES AGREE THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO SUBSTANCE IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. ON ECONOMIC SIDE SOVIETS MADE IT PLAIN TO SWEDES THAT, IF THEY WANT TO EXPAND TRADE WITH USSR, THEY WILL HAVE TO PUT SOME CAPITAL INTO THE POT AND UNDERTAKE COMMITMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE, KOSYGIN'S RELAXED, GOOD- HUMORED PR IMAGE WAS OFFSET BY FOCUS ON UNSATISFACTORY CIVIL LIBERTIES SITUATION IN USSR ACHIEVED BY JEWISH AND OTHER ANTI- SOVIET DEMONSTRATORS. NEITHER KOSYGIN NOR SWEDISH SIDE HAD ANYTHING DISAGREEABLE TO SAY ABOUT U. S.

1. KOSYGIN WALKED THROUGH HIS FOUR- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SWEDEN WITHOUT RUNNING INTO SIGNIFICANT CONTRETEMPS AND EQUALLY WITHOUT
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ACQUIRING MUCH OF VALUE FOR HIS WEEK'S WORK. HE CAME TO STOCKHOLM WEARING A "SMILIN ALEX" IMAGE, A GENTLE STATESMAN MORE INTERESTED IN PEOPLE AND THEIR SIMPLE PROBLEMS AND PLEASURES THAT IN POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE. THE IMAGE WAS MAINTAINED BY "UN-SCHEDULED" STROLLS THROUGH STOCKHOLM STREETS, A FISHING INTERLUDE OFF GOTHENBURG, AND A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ORIENTED TOWARD HUMAN INTEREST. IT WAS BELIED ONLY AT KOSYGIN'S APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN IRREVERENT JOURNALISTS PUT A FEW AWKWARD QUESTIONS WHICH TURNED HIM GRIM-FACED AND ABRUPT.

2. RELATIVELY RELAXED POSTURE OF SOVIET PREMIER WAS WIDELY AND FAVORABLE COMMENTED BY SWEDES. THIS PR PLUS WAS JUST ABOUT OFF-SET, HOWEVER, BY SHARP FOCUS ON UNFAVORABLE CIVIL LIBERTIES SITUATION INSIDE USSR THROUGHOUT KOSYGIN'S STAY. THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER DEVICES JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN EXPLOITED KOSYGIN'S PRESENCE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO EMIGRATION PROBLEMS. BALTIC EMIGRES AND SYMPATHIZERS WITH OPPRESSED SOVIET DISSIDENTS (PARTICULARLY YAKIR) ALSO SHARPLY REMINDED SWEDISH PUBLIC OF REALITIES OF LIFE IN SOVIET UNION. SWEDISH PRESS WAS NOT AT ALL SHY ABOUT POINTING OUT SOVIET WARTS. A SOVIET EMBOFF TOLD ME LAST NIGHT HE CONSIDERED USSR HAD GOT "PRETTY BAD" PRESS TREATMENT DURING VISIT.

3. AT KOSYGIN RECEPTION AT SOVIET EMBASSY I TALKED TO ASTROM (MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL) AND STATSKEVTICH (POLITICAL COUNSELOR OF SOVIET EMBASSY) ON SUBSTANCE OF KOSYGIN VISIT. STATSKEVITCH SAID THAT POLITICAL SIDE OF KOSYGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH PALME AND OTHERS WAS DEVOID OF INTEREST. "WE DON'T HAVE ANY IMPORTANT PROBLEMS" HE SAID. "YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUDY THE COMMUNIQUE. WE REPEAT THE SAME OLD THINGS." HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC SIDE OF TALKS WAS "MORE IMPORTANT" BUT NOT VERY MUCH HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. STATSKEVITCH SAID THAT IF SWEDES WISHED TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY WITH USSR THEY WOULD HAVE TO PUT BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON RELATIVELY LONG-TERM BASIS - AGREEMENTS OF FIVE YEARS DURATION OR MORE.

4. ASTROM TOLD ROUGHLY SAME STORY. HE SAID COMMUNIQUE WAS "ROUTINE" AND AGREEMENT THEREON WAS "RATHER EASILY" ACHIEVED. HE SAID GOS DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THERE ARE ANY NEW DEPARTURES IN IT. ASTROM SAID BULK OF KOSYGIN-PALME TALKS WAS RATHER RAMBLING RUNDOWN OF WORLD SITUATION IN WHICH KOSYGIN TENDED TO WAX ANECDOTAL. ON VIETNAM, ASTROM SAID, KOSYGIN MADE IT EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLICIT THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE PARIS AGREEMENTS

ADHERED TO AND STABILITY RETURN TO INDOCHINA. ASTROM SAID THERE WAS NO SIGN OF " ADVENTURISM" IN KOSYGIN, S ATTITUDE TOWARD INDOCHIA AND ITS FUTURE. ASTROM MADE SAME POINT AS STATSKEVITCH ON NEED FOR PLACING ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON LONGER- TERM BASIS, CONCEDING THAT SOVIETS HAD MADE IT PLAIN THERE WAS NO INTEREST IN EXPANDING SMALL- SCALE, CASH- AND- CARRY IMPORTS FROM SWEDEN. ASTROM SAID TO HIS SURPRISE NOT A WORD WAS UTTERED ABOUT FINLAND DURING KOSYGIN- PALME TALKS TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID PERHAPS PODGORNYY' S PRESENCE IN HELSINKI HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT HE HAD EXPECTED AT LEAST A CURSORY SUMMARY OF SOVIET- FINNISH RELATIONS IN KOSYGIN' S TOUR D' HORIZON.

5. IN THEIR VARIOUS PUBLIC AND SEMI- PUBLIC STATEMENTS BOTH KOSYGIN AND PALME SEEMED TO TAKE CARE NOT TO SPEAK ILL OF THE U. S. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE KOSYGIN LET PASS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY QUESTIONERS FOR CRITICISM OF U. S. HE ALSO RATHER POINTEDLY DECLINED TO PRAISE THE SWEDES FOR THEIR ACTIVIST ROLE IN VIETNAM WAR WHEN SPECIFICALLY CHALLENGED TO AT PRESS CONFERENCE. PRESUMABLY HE HAD NO INTEREST IN DISTURBING AN IMPORTANT REALTIONSHIP JUST TO SCORE A POPULARITY POINT WITH A MINOR- LEAGUE GOVERNMENT. OLSEN

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